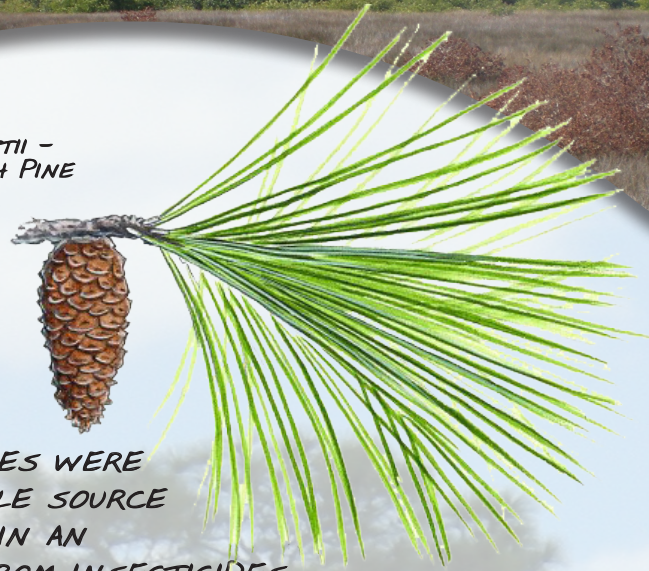


TURPENTINE TREE



*PINUS ELLIOTTII -
FLORIDA SLASH PINE*



DID YOU KNOW?

- *SLASH PINE TREES WERE AT ONE TIME A VALUABLE SOURCE OF TURPENTINE USED IN AN ARRAY OF PRODUCTS FROM INSECTICIDES AND PAINT THINNER TO SHOE POLISH AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES.*
- *SIMILAR TO THE TAPPING OF SUGAR MAPLES FOR MAPLE SYRUP, SLASH PINES CAN BE TAPPED FOR TURPENTINE. THE THICK SAP PRODUCED BY THE TREES WHEN THE BARK IS CUT IS A NATURAL RESIN WHICH SEALS AND PROTECTS THE TREE FROM WOOD-BORING INSECTS.*
- *THE SLASH PINE SAP CAN BE DISTILLED TO SEPARATE TURPENTINE FROM THE TAR AND RESIN. MILLIONS OF ACRES OF FLORIDA'S PINE FORESTS WERE AT ONE TIME TAPPED TO SUPPORT THE DEMAND FOR TURPENTINE PRODUCTS FOR USE IN THE CARE OF WOODEN SHIPS.*
- *SUPPLIERS OF TURPENTINE AND OTHER PRODUCTS FROM THE DISTILLING PROCESS CAME TO BE KNOWN AS "NAVAL STORES" AS A RESULT OF THEIR IMPORTANCE IN THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY.*
- *THE CONCENTRATION OF RESIN IN THE LOWER PORTION OF THE TRUNK AND ROOTS MAKES PIECES OF WOOD FROM THESE AREAS OF THE TREE, KNOWN AS "LIGHTERWOOD", ESPECIALLY GOOD FOR STARTING A CAMP FIRE.*



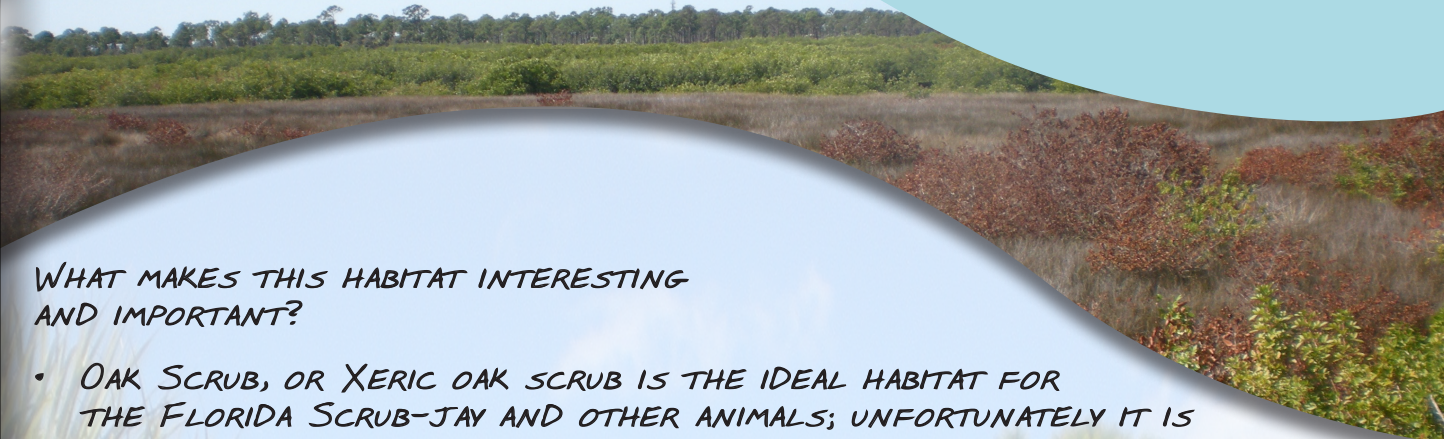
THIS SLASH PINE IS ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING THAT SHOWS SIGNS OF ITS HISTORY AS A TURPENTINE TREE.

POINT OF INTEREST





POINT OF INTEREST



WHAT MAKES THIS HABITAT INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT?

- OAK SCRUB, OR XERIC OAK SCRUB IS THE IDEAL HABITAT FOR THE FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY AND OTHER ANIMALS; UNFORTUNATELY IT IS AN EXAMPLE OF A QUICKLY VANISHING VEGETATION COMMUNITY.
- XERIC, IS A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE PLANT COMMUNITIES THAT REQUIRE VERY LITTLE MOISTURE, WHILE SCRUB INDICATES STUNTED TREES OR SHRUBS.
- THIS TYPE OF XERIC OAK SCRUB COMMUNITY, KNOWN AS COASTAL SCRUB, IS CHARACTERIZED BY SMALL STUNTED OAK TREES FOUND IN DRY, SANDY SOILS, GENERALLY WHERE FREQUENT FIRE HAS PREVENTED THE GROWTH OF LARGER TREES.



FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY PERCHED ON THE BRANCH OF A SCRUB OAK



FREQUENT FIRES ARE NECESSARY FOR XERIC HABITATS

- SUPPRESSION OF NATURAL FIRES LEADS TO THE GROWTH OF DENSER STANDS OF LARGER TREES AND THE REDUCTION OF XERIC OAK SCRUB. DEVELOPMENT OF UPLAND AREAS HAS ALSO GREATLY REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF SCRUB HABITAT IN FLORIDA.
- THE XERIC OAK SCRUB COMMUNITY FOUND HERE INCLUDES MYRTLE OAK, CHAPMAN'S OAK, SAND-LIVE OAK, SCRUB HICKORY AND SAW PALMETTO.
- THE ACORNS PRODUCED BY THE OAKS ARE AN IMPORTANT FOOD SOURCE FOR THE BIRDS AND MAMMALS THAT FREQUENT THIS HABITAT.





CABBAGE PALM CANOPY

THE NAME "HAMMOCK" IS USED IN THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES TO DESCRIBE A SHADY, FORESTED AREA. PALM HAMMOCKS ARE A RARE GEM FOUND PRIMARILY IN THE FLORIDA PENINSULA. WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT PALM HAMMOCKS?

THE CABBAGE PALMS THAT DOMINATE THESE HAMMOCKS ARE TYPICALLY OVERSHADOWED BY LARGER PINES IN OTHER NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES, STUNTING THEIR ABILITY FOR GROWTH. IN THIS LOCATION SALTWATER FROM THE NEIGHBORING BRACKISH CREEK INHIBITS THE GROWTH OF PINES, ALLOWING THE MORE SALT-TOLERANT CABBAGE PALMS TO TAKE OVER.

- THE CABBAGE PALM, FLORIDA'S STATE TREE, PROVIDES FOOD AND SHELTER TO RACCOONS, BIRDS, SQUIRRELS AND OTHER WILDLIFE. THEIR FRONDS HAVE ALSO BEEN USED HISTORICALLY FOR MAKING THATCHED SHELTERS, WHILE THEIR HEARTS WERE A POPULAR OLD-TIME FLORIDA DISH CALLED SWAMP CABBAGE.



ZAMIA PUMILA - COONTIE

- COONTIE, FOUND GROWING HERE IN THE UNDERSTORY OF THE PALM HAMMOCK, WAS ALSO A SOURCE OF FOOD FOR NATIVE AMERICANS AND EARLY FLORIDA SETTLERS. THE ROOT OF THE COONTIE WAS GROUND AND MADE INTO FLOUR, A PROCESS THAT THE NATIVE AMERICANS LIKELY PASSED ON TO FLORIDA'S NEWER RESIDENTS.
- ALSO, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR WILD COCO, A GROUND ORCHID THAT MAY BE SEEN FLOWERING IN THIS AREA.



COONTIE SEED CONE





Red-headed Woodpecker

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER



ADULT RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS STANDOUT WITH THEIR FULL RED HEAD, WHITE BELLY AND BLACK BACK. THESE BIRDS ARE ATTRACTED TO OPEN WOODS, LIKE THE PINE FLATWOODS HERE AT TIPPECANOE ENVIRONMENTAL PARK, AND ARE KNOWN TO MOVE INTO RECENTLY BURNED OR CLEARED AREAS, LIKE THOSE CREATED FROM THE APPLICATION OF PRESCRIBED FIRE.

WHAT ELSE DO WE KNOW ABOUT RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS?

- RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS CREATE THEIR NESTS IN THE CAVITIES OF DEAD TREES, KNOWN AS SNAGS, AND PREFER THOSE THAT HAVE LOST ALL THEIR BARK.
- THE RED-HEADED WOODPECKER IS THE MOST OMNIVOROUS OF WOODPECKERS, EATING AN ASSORTMENT OF SEEDS, NUTS, BERRIES, INSECTS, BIRD EGGS, AND EVEN MICE.
- THIS SPECIES OF WOODPECKER IS ALSO AMONG THE FEW KNOWN TO STORE FOOD, SOME INSECTS SUCH AS GRASSHOPPERS WILL EVEN BE STORED ALIVE IN CREVICES WHERE THEY CAN NOT ESCAPE.

